



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. PROVIDES DNA DATABASE TRAINING, DELIVERS DNA INDEX SOFTWARE TO BANGLADESH POLICE TO ENHANCE IDENTIFICATION CAPABILITY

DHAKA, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 – On Thursday, the U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat attended the “Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) DNA Database Training” graduation ceremony for 21 Dhaka Metropolitan Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officers. At this event, the Ambassador formally handed over the CODIS software to the Bangladesh National Police to enhance identification capability at their DNA laboratory.

CODIS is a software platform that blends forensic science and computer technology. DNA analysts use CODIS to search for and compare DNA profiles obtained from crime scene evidence against DNA profiles from other crime scenes and from convicted offenders and arrestees. This database can also be utilized to assist in the identification of mass casualty victims.

In response to a request from the chief of CID, the United States International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sought and obtained U.S. Counterterrorism Bureau funding to provide Bangladesh with CODIS capabilities. The FBI donated the CODIS software and the instructors for the week-long training. ICITAP provided the server, operating software licenses, and travel expenses for the trainers.

As the Chief Guest, Ambassador Bernicat stated that, “CODIS offers criminal justice practitioners new opportunities in their effort to promote and support the rule of law in Bangladesh. CODIS offers objective conclusions, rather than opinions. It will help convict the guilty, as well as exonerate the innocent. CODIS will help investigators seek the truth through solid, scientific facts, not conjecture.”

Previously, the United States also donated CODIS to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital enabling the authorities to identify the remains of hundreds of victims of the April 2013 Rana Plaza garment complex collapse.

GR/2018